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1965/02/08

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

PE

Info

[redacted] RUFHDN RUFHPA
[redacted] 304A 08/0525Z
O [redacted] ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHPA/CINCPAC
RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONGKONG
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUMTBK/AMEMBASY BANGKOK
RUMJNN/AMEMBASSY PHNOMPENH
RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS
STATE GRNC
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A~~ L

ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT 2435 INFO IMMEDIATE CINCPAC 1440 HONGKONG 288 MOSCOW 52 VIENTIANE 364 BANGKOK 444 PHNOM PENH 345 LONDON 156 PARIS 194 FROM SAIGON FEB 8, 1PM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

INITIAL HANOI REACTION TO RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM ON FEBRUARY 7 CAME IN FORM OF BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED AT 7:55 P.M. (11:55 GMT) AT END OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST. HANOI DOMESTIC SERVICE CARRIED COMMEN-
CFN 2435 1440 2888152 364 444 345 156 194 8 1PM 52 7 7:55 PM 11:55 GMT

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 304A ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
TARY ON ATTACK TWO HOURS LATER AND DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT WAS READ AT PRESS CONFERENCE THREE HOURS LATER. ALL CARRIED FBIS.

HANOI HAS CLAIMED INCIDENT WAS VICTORY FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES, WHICH ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE DOWNED FOUR "AGGRESSOR" PLANES, AND HAS URGED NORTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO DEFEND FATHERLAND. HANOI RADIO LABELED ACTION, "EXTREMELY SERIOUS ACT OF AGGRESSION," AND SAID AGGRESSORS HAD BEEN "PUNISHED APPROPRIATELY." IT CLAIMED THAT US AND LACKEYS STRAFED AND BOMBED CON CO ISLAND IN ADDITION TO DONG HOI TOWN

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Reviewed by NLJ/3

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1965 FEB 8 AM 3 00

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DECLASSIFICATION DATE 9/25/75
PER NLSmith OFFICE EA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-C-446

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(WHERE BOMBS ALLEGEDLY LANDED AT HOSPITAL AND AT AREA IN FRONT OF ICC "FIXED TEAM" HEADQUARTERS). DRV DEFENSE MINISTRY "SOLEMNLY WARNS US IMPERIALISTS AND LACKEYS THAT THEY MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTS OF AGGRESSION."

CLAIM THAT UNJUSTIFIED ATTACK VICTORIOUSLY REBUFFED IS IN SAME VEIN AS REACTION TO RETALIATORY ACTION FOLLOWING GULF OF TONKIN INCIDENTS LAST SUMMER. SPEED AND TONE OF REACTION SUGGEST THAT THIS IS INITIAL WORD ONLY, GUIDELINES OF

CFN FBIS US CON CO ISLAND DONG HOI ICC DRV US

PAGE THREE RUJIR 304A C ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHICH PROBABLY HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN EARLIER CONTINGENCY PLANNING. THERE IS NO INDICATION IN STATEMENTS AVAILABLE HERE HOW AND WHETHER DRV PLANS TO REPLY TO "AGGRESSION," BUT REFERENCE TO "APPROPRIATE PUNSIHMENT" MAY INDICATE THAT NO IMMEDIATE COUNTER-RETALIATION PLANNED.

NATURE OF SUBSEQUENT AND POSSIBLY MORE DEFINITIVE DRV STATEMENTS WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON REACTION OF MOSCOW AND PEIPING AND MANNER IN WHICH TWO CAPITALS INTERPRET THEIR EARLIER PUBLIC PROMISES OF SUPPORT IN CASE OF ATTACK ON DRV. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING SO FAR FROM EITHER MOSCOW OR PEIPING.

TAYLOR
BT
CFN DRV DRV

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 3:14 A.M. FEBRUARY 8, ~~1965~~

PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, 2/8/65 - 3:30 A.M.

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